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Principal: Mr. E.R. Chamberlain



Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2022

Dear Parents & Carers,

### Happy New Year!

Welcome to the new term! I hope everyone had a good Christmas and New Year. Winter is definitely with us – the temperature has dropped and there has even been mention of snow.

The new term brings with it new guidance and new updates on what we need to do in school about the pandemic. It also brings some optimism. The Omicron variant seems to be less severe, but nevertheless it is highly transmissible. Our priority remains ensuring that the school is open and we provide face-to-face education for all our pupils. However, we have to be prepared for all eventualities and have been reviewing plans for remote learning if it is needed. This would be an absolute last resort!

Below is a summary of the guidelines as we understand them at the moment (but as you know, they could change at any moment!):

- It remains a legal requirement for children to attend school
- All staff in school will wear face coverings in communal areas
- Children in primary schools are not required to wear face coverings
- We are asking parents and carers to consider wearing face coverings when on the school site (unless they are exempt). This is to help protect them and the staff.
- Any visitors in to the school building (including parents) need to wear a face covering
- Children do not need to isolate if they have been in contact with someone who has tested positive. However, we advise that you test them daily for seven days – if negative they are able to attend as normal.
- As of next Tuesday (11<sup>th</sup> January), any positive lateral flow test means that you need to start self-isolation. The new government guidelines state that you do not need to take a PCR test to confirm this. *This is a temporary arrangement whilst infections are high.*
- Isolation is for 10 days: **unless** you take lateral flow tests on days 6 and 7 and they are BOTH negative. If this is the case you can end isolation from day 8 and return to normal.

As always, we ask that you keep us informed of any positive test results – or any other absence issues. We know that the guidelines and rules are confusing, and have changed so often it is hard to remember what we should or shouldn't be doing. We will do our best to keep you informed of any changes.

We really appreciate your co-operation and support with this – thank you.

Yours sincerely,

E.R. Chamberlain,  
Principal